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KINGSTON ONTARIO CANADA

A
L E T T E R
To the AUTHOR of An
E N Q U I R Y
I N T O T H E
R E V E N U E , C R E D I T , and
C O M M E R C E of *FRANCE*.

Price One Shilling.

A
LETTER

To the AUTHOR of An

ENQUIRY

INTO THE

REVENUE, CREDIT, and
COMMERCE of *FRANCE*.

WHEREIN

The former and present State of the Power and
Commerce of that Kingdom are fully consider'd,
and deduced from AUTHENTIC Accounts.

By a MEMBER of PARLIAMENT.

Fiet Aper, modò Avis, modò Saxum, & cum volet Arbor.
Horat.

L O N D O N :

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S I R,



HAVE examined your Performance: The Importance of the Title, I must confess, rais'd my Curiosity, which the Perusal of your Piece most miserably disappointed; but when I was told, who the Gentleman is, you address it to, I was greatly surprized at your strange Presumption, in offering your Work to a Gentleman, the most capable of observing the Weakness and Contradictions in it, and who must heartily despise you for troubling himself, and the World, with your wild *Reveries* upon a Subject of such Importance.

You set out, Sir, with what you mean, I suppose, for a Compliment to this Gentleman, when you accost him in the following manner;
“ *You are no less eminent for your unaffected Zeal,*
“ *than you are for those Abilities and Parts,*
“ *which have already made you an Ornament to the*
“ *great Council of the Nation, and which in you*
“ *have the peculiar Grace of being the early Dis-*
“ *tinction of your Youth:*” Now, Sir, tho’ I am
B far

far above Cavilling, yet I think it not improper to instruct you a little in Good-manners; you are then to be inform'd, That it is no Compliment, to tell any Gentleman that he is *eminent for his Zeal*, unless it be accompany'd with *Knowledge*; nor are you more fortunate in the latter-end of your Speech, in acquainting him, that “ *Abilities and Parts in him have the peculiar Grace of being the early Distinction of his Youth.*” For not to mention, that if the Distinction of any Gentleman for his Parts be *early*, it must *necessarily* be in his Youth, so that there is nothing *peculiar* in this; I must tell you, Sir, that this Gentleman's Discovery of Parts in his Youth, is not a Distinction *peculiar* to himself; for it is what is common to many other young Gentlemen; but the peculiar Distinction of his Youth, is the Maturity of his Judgment, and that manly Knowledge and Reasoning, which accompanies his Parts, and rarely appears in Gentlemen of his Age; this, Sir, he is justly remarkable for, as well as for the Steadiness of his Conduct, and the amiable Sincerity of his Friendship, which you have awkwardly call'd his *unaffected Zeal*.

But passing from these uncouth Compliments, I proceed to examine the Substance of your Work; and here I am abundantly at a loss for your Design in it: Is it secretly to reproach the late Minister for not attacking the *French*, whom you affirm to be without any considerable Revenue, Credit, or Commerce? And are you, Sir, endeavouring to insinuate Accusations against him, and addressing them to that Gentleman,

tleman, who has eminently appear'd his Friend? If you deny such an Intention, let us then know your Drift? If you say, that it was only simply to state the Weakness of *France*; you should have consider'd the Inferences, that the World will thence naturally make; nor is the Insignificance of your Performance any Argument against this; for it is evident that much Mischief has been done within these few Years, by the *vagrant* Pens of the most wretched Scribes.

It will perhaps be said in your behalf, by those, who must acknowledge your Piece to be very ill-judg'd, that you had certainly no Designs of this Sort, and could never intend to affront the Gentleman you address yourself to; however unfortunately your Discourse is directed; though this, Sir, may be the only Excuse that can be made for you, and if the Innocence of your Intentions should be allowed you in *pity*, yet you must stand evidently convicted, and acknowledge yourself guilty of a most *stolid and artless Ostentation*, which has thus led you to expose your *Talents* to the World.

The Awkwardness and Impropriety of your Compliments being thus dispatch'd, and the natural Tendency of your Work being plainly laid open, whatever your Design was, or perhaps your want of Design, I am next to examine the Performance itself: And first, as to the *Revenue* of *France*, which you have collected, you say, from another Work, I shall admit it for the present to be a just Account; and

from thence I proceed to your State of the *Credit of France*: Here, after telling us, *Page* the 9th, that the *French* are less fond of Titles and Honours than formerly; you inquire, *Page* the 10th, into the other Resources of the *French* Crown; and you observe, that, “*Though*
 “*the Crown should have no Effects to purchase*
 “*Money, yet Money may be procur’d upon*
 “*Pledges, and they are either real or imagi-*
 “*nary; according to this Distinction,* say you, *I*
 “*make Jewels a real Pledge, because they are a*
 “*real or actual Security for Money in the Hands*
 “*of the Lender:”* Now I doubt not, but you plumed yourself here, upon your distinguishing Faculty; and it is really a notable Discovery of your own, that there is any difference between *Effects* and *real Pledges*; *Jewels*, you say, *are real Pledges, because they are a real and actual Security in the Hands of the Lender*: And pray, Sir, are not *Jewels* *Effects* too, for the same Reason? No, say you, they are quite different things; the Crown may have *Jewels*, and yet it may have no *Effects*; though these *Jewels* are a real Security in the Hands of the Lender: How could you deliver such Stuff to the Gentleman you address yourself to? I am apt to believe you have produced your *own Effects* here, instead of the King of *France’s*.

You go on to consider the Public Credit of *France*, and say, *Page* the 11th, “*The no-*
 “*torious Violence and Injustice, with which the*
 “*Proprietors of State-Securities were treated*
 “*during the Regency of the Duke of Orleans,*
 “*has so branded the Public Faith of that King-*
 “*dom,*

“ dom, that it is impossible there can be any such
 “ thing there existing as public Credit.

“ And yet, say you, I am inform’d the Govern-
 “ ment, not many Months ago, had Money ad-
 “ vanced both by Foreigners and Subjects ; if ’tis
 “ true, it must be entirely owing to the Cardi-
 “ nal’s personal Credit with the Bankers and
 “ Financiers, whose Confidence he has gain’d by his
 “ Punctuality hitherto in Pecuniary Transactions ;
 “ and that possibly would in some measure support
 “ the Government, if his Eminence was a little
 “ younger, but considering his great Age the Influence
 “ of his Administration upon Affairs at this Time,
 “ must be weak in Proportion to the apparent Short-
 “ ness of its Duration.”

Here, Sir, is nothing but a String of Con-
 tradictions ; for the Substance, of what I have
 quoted, is no other than this ; you assert first,
 That it is impossible there should be any public
 Credit in *France*, and yet that the Government,
 a few Months ago, borrowed Money of Subjects
 and Foreigners ; but, say you, this must be en-
 tirely owing to the Cardinal’s Personal Credit,
 and yet that considering his great Age, his In-
 fluence in such Matters must be very weak ; that
 is, there can be little Personal Dependence upon
 him : For God’s sake, what are we to under-
 stand by all this ? You assert, that there *is not*,
 and that there *is* Public Credit in *France* ; and
 that the Cardinal from his *Punctuality* must
 have Personal Credit, but from his *great Age*
 cannot have it ;——You have here, Sir, most
 plainly discovered your Country ; here are such
 Hyber-

Hybernian Effects, such *real Pledges* in the Hands of the *Reader*, that it is impossible to doubt your being of the NATION.

You say next, “*The absolute Power of the Crown is a Resource that still remains, and indeed where the Government is Absolute, and the Glory of the King the principal Object, there is but little Attention to the Misery of the People, any otherwise than to proportion the Efforts of the State, to their utmost Ability of Suffering: But to compute what Sums of Money that will produce, is as difficult, say you, as it is to estimate the Patience of an enslaved Nation;*” However difficult it may seem, Sir, to estimate the Patience of an enslaved Nation, the Patience of the *French* under the Extortions of their Monarchs is pretty easily computed; it is indeed that Matter in your Book, which appears the least disputable of all others; though, it seems, you are quite unacquainted with it: Have you not stated the Excessive Amount of *Lewis’s* Debt, and affirmed, *Page* the 17th, that it arose to above 176 Millions *Sterling*? The Interest of which was above 8 Millions, 8 Hundred Thousand Pounds *per Annum*; when the Income of *France*, now in its recovering Condition, is no more, as you say, than about 5 Millions and an half, and when this Income in the Year 1709 was not quite two Million *Sterling*.

Have you not likewise mention’d the Conduct of the Duke of *Orleans*, and his Method of reducing and cancelling the Properties of the *French* People? And can you doubt of the *Patience*

tience of this Nation, when the Glory of their Monarch requires it? is it not known that after the Year 1709, the *French King* made greater Efforts, than ever; and both in *Spain* and in *Flanders* brought more numerous and better provided Troops into the Field than before? You are not therefore, Sir, to estimate the Power and Ability of France, if she be either piqu'd or push'd, by the neat Amount of certain Taxes; for that Monarch is Master of the whole Property of his Kingdom; and as long as there are Men, Money, or Provisions in *France*, he will never be in want of Resources; and utterly disregard the Sufferings of his People, when they stand in Competition with his own Ambition.

This, Sir, even supposing your Computations were right, would utterly destroy the Argument you draw from them concerning the Weakness of *France*; Errors, of the same sort with yours, were continually propagated in King *William's* and Queen *Anne's* Wars; we were then every Year told, that *France* could continue the War but one Year longer; and we had such authentick Accounts of the Misery and Distress of that People, that it seemed really amazing how the *French King* could obtain any Supplies for the next Year; we knew that had the Case been the same in *England*, the People here would no longer have endured it, and that no King of *England* could have supported a War under such Circumstances. And it was common amongst us to call *Lewis* an old Bankrupt; and to say, as you do, that he was many Millions worse than nothing:

nothing : But still he came out every Year with fresh Forces ; and the wisest amongst us, tho' they abhorr'd the infamous and mean Concessions to *France* at the Treaty of *Utrecht*, yet were never averse to an honourable Peace with that Nation ; and were far from deceiving themselves with Notions of the Weakness of the *French* King, though they were sensible of the Miseries of his People ; they knew that there was no conquering the Monarch of *France*, nor any such thing as exhausting his Strength, whilst there was any Property or People left in his Kingdom.

This being sufficiently understood by Gentlemen of Discernment and real Knowledge, you extremely discover your own Weakness in troubling us with the old threadbare Assertions of the Imbecillity of the *French* Crown. If you would have done this to Purpose, you should have shewn, Sir, that the absolute Power which *Lewis* had formerly over his People, is limited and restrained at present ; this would have really prov'd the Diminution of the *French* Power, and convinced us that their Crown was depriv'd of its former Resources.

But I come next, Sir, to examine your Accounts of the *French* Exports to *England* and *Holland* ; you tell us Page the 22d, that Mr. *Fortry* makes the Value of all the Goods exported from *France* to *England*, to be 2,600,000 *l.* per Annum ; and that it was computed, about the same time, that the general Exports from *France* to all Countries were 6,750,000 *l.* as
you

you had this from the *British Merchant*, Vol. the 2d, Page the 232d, I shall readily admit it : But immediately there follows an Observation of your own, in these Words, Page the 22d,
 “ *What is very remarkable, France was all this*
 “ *while without Merchants, and without Shipping ;*
 “ *The French were only Factors to the Dutch,*
 “ *who carried on not only the Foreign, but even*
 “ *the coasting Trade of France in Dutch Bottoms.*”

Had you consulted the *British Merchant*, he would have told you the direct contrary to this; you will find, Vol. I. Page 274, the following Words, “ *Vast Quantities of French*
 “ *Goods were sold in England by Commission,*
 “ *so that the Property of these Goods was never*
 “ *out of the French Merchants, before the*
 “ *Sale of them in this Kingdom, and therefore*
 “ *we were obliged to pay to France not only the*
 “ *Value of the Goods in that Country, but the*
 “ *Adventure of them into England; this is*
 “ *known to have been the Case of all their wrought*
 “ *Silks and a great Part of their Linens; they*
 “ *were sold in England by Commission.*”

You see, Sir, that *France* was so far from being without Merchants, that her Exports to *England*, which were more than one third of the whole, are here expressly declar'd to have been chiefly sold by Commission, on account of her own Merchants; and doubtless this was in some measure the Case of *Holland*, though perhaps not in so great a Degree; but, Sir, admit it was otherwise in *Holland*; suppose that the *Dutch* bought the Commodities of *France* from the *French* Growers or Makers, and of course sold them for
 C their

their own, that is, for *Dutch* Account; were the *French* therefore Factors to the *Dutch*? You want to be inform'd, Sir, that Factors are such as are employed by Merchants to dispose of their Goods abroad; thus between *England* and *France* in the Disposal of *French* Commodities, the *French* were the Makers and Merchants too, the *English* only the Factors; and between *Holland* and *France*, if the *Dutch* bought the *French* Goods, and sold them on their own Accounts, then the *Dutch* were the Merchants, and the *French* only the Makers or Growers: But the *Dutch* were not Factors to the *French*, though the *Dutch* might be their own Factors.

Thus, if *Irish* Linens are received, and vended by any Person in *London* on Account of the *Irish* Makers, this Person is only their Factor; If he receives them and vends them on his own Account, paying the Makers a certain Price for them, who are no way concerned in the Sale; then this Person is the Merchant; But the Weavers at *Antrim* in either Case are by no means Factors; no more were the *French* to the *Dutch*: I have dwelt longer on this, than I intended, but I have done it for your Instruction, at the same Time that I am giving you a seasonable Correction.

You next give an Encomium upon Monsieur Colbert, Page the 24th; and after recounting his Merits you add, "*These Things naturally give one*
 " *a high Opinion of the Talent of so able a Minister.*
 " *Yet so limited are the Views and Speculations*
 " *even of the greatest Statesmen in Regulations of*
 " *Commerce, the Measures he took to extend the*
 " *Trade*

“ *Trade and Navigation of France were attended*
 “ *with Consequences fatal in the end to her Ma-*
 “ *nufactures; the high Duties on foreign Mer-*
 “ *chandise and foreign Shipping, laid on by the*
 “ *Tariff of 1664, and increased by the Tariff*
 “ *of 1667, provok'd foreign Nations to do the*
 “ *same, and of course to attempt the Manufac-*
 “ *tures of such Commodities, as they had hitherto*
 “ *been entirely supply'd with from France;*” Thus
 the Ruin and Destruction of the *French* Manu-
 factories, you here attribute to the *Provocation*
 that was given to Foreign Nations, by the high
 Duties in *France* upon Foreign Merchandise and
 Shipping.

Whereas in a Page or two afterwards you assign
 the Ruin of the *French* Manufactures to ano-
 ther Cause; for you say Page the 26th, “ *It*
 “ *seems Prosperity has in itself the Principles of*
 “ *its own Destruction, Lewis intoxicated with*
 “ *good Fortune, began a most barbarous Persecu-*
 “ *tion against his Protestant Subjects;*” above
 half a Million of whom, you tell us, fled out
 of his Kingdom with their Effects and Industry;
 And you add, “ *Thus the Bigotted Tyrant tore*
 “ *up the Roots of his own Power;*” It seems
 here then, the Ruin of the *French* Manufactures
 was owing to the *Persecution* of the Protestants,
 which you attributed before to the *Provocation*
 which was given to Foreign Nations.

But before you have done with this Business
 you assign a third Cause for their Ruin;
 which was *Lewis's* engaging in a bloody and
 fatal War, against the principal Powers of
Europe; *this was scarce ended*, you say, before he

engaged in another more bloody and more fatal War than the first fatal War ; upon which you thus determine, Page the 27th, “ *The long Interruption of Trade occasioned by these Wars, and the Superiority of the Maritime Powers at Sea, almost entirely ruin’d the Manufactures of the Kingdom.*” Here, the Ruin of the French Manufactures is ascrib’d to a third Cause, viz. the ill Consequences of these Wars,

If you had attributed their Ruin to all these three Causes together, I should not have objected ; But when after you have ruin’d them once, you ruin them a second time, independently of the first ; And again, after they have been twice destroy’d already, you kill them a third time, by a new Circumstance separate from the two former, I could not avoid observing it ; and the rather, because I apprehend you are here displaying your Law, and, according to the Language of *Westminster-hall*, Hanging up the French Manufactures, till they are DEAD, DEAD, DEAD : I must tell you, Sir, upon this Occasion, that I despise Cavilling, as much as any Gentleman ; but really in Performances upon these Subjects, the Reader has a right to expect some Accuracy, and must be excus’d if he shews a Resentment, upon being disappointed by a flimsy incoherent Performance.

The next Stroke of your Pen is the Calculation of an *infinite* Loss of Men, which you sagely determine to be 1,425,000 ; The Gravity of your setting about this, and your manner of clearing your way, are most admirable : You say, though you never saw any Calculation
of

of this sort, you will yet venture to attempt it; The Reader will divert himself with the notable Computation Page the 27th, 28th, 29th. This Loss of 1,425,000 Men out of the *French* King's Armies you suppose to have arisen by the *Sword*, *Sickness*, and *Desertion*. Now, Sir, that there was a considerable Loss of Men by the *Sword*, I shall readily allow; But as for *Sickness*, no more are to be put down, as lost by this means, than the Number which died by the extraordinary Hardships of the Service, and would not have died, had they been out of the Army.

And as to your last Article of *Desertion*, I shall allow no Loss at all for it; for the *French* Soldiers either deserted from the *French* Troops to the Confederates, or back again into *France*. In the first Case, if some of the *French* Soldiers deserted to the Confederates, so did many of the Confederate Soldiers to the *French*, by whom they were particularly encourag'd; so that these may fairly be placed against each other. And as to the second Case, if the *French* Soldiers deserted from their Regiments to *France*, it is evident, Sir, this was no Loss of Men to that Nation.

All this while, what you have heard from the Gentlemen of the *Trade*, that at the End of a Campaign they generally compute their Loss at one fifth Part by the *Sword*, *Sickness*, and *Desertion*, may be in general Just; For they only inform you of the Loss to their Regiments, and not of the Loss to the Kingdom. A whole Company of any Regiment in *England* might desert, which however would be

be no Loss of Men to the Nation : The *extraordinary* Destruction of Men by the Severities of the Service, was all that you wanted, and all that is to be imputed to *Lewis's* Armies : — But this you was not able to distinguish.

As to your Imagination of the Loss by *Desertion*, I cannot but extremely pity your Weakness in it ; How comes it that you have no Notion of a Man's deserting again into his own Country ?

You expatiate next upon the additional Mischiefs of this Loss in the following manner ;
 “ *So great a number of Men the most vigorous*
 “ *and robust being cut off from the Stock of the*
 “ *People, without replacing themselves to their*
 “ *Country by an honest Propagation, is in my*
 “ *humble Opinion a Loss scarce to be repaired ;*”
 This, Sir, I presume, is your *own Suggestion*, for you have scarcely been acquainted by Gentlemen of the *Trade*, of their *ill Success* in *Propagation* ; And without descending into Particulars, and telling you, that many Soldiers die old, and after they have done with Propagation ; that most of the others, which die younger, have exercised themselves, and probably with Success, in this manner ; I shall only declare in general, that it is a most *infamous Scandal* upon the *French Soldiery* : And as you have not excepted our own Army from the same Imputation, whom their worst Enemies have allow'd to be a standing Army, I doubt not but they will resent it in general, as a *Dishonest Reflexion* upon their Abilities and Courage.

I shall

I shall pass over your Account of the arbitrary Alterations in the *French* Coin, by the Command of the Regent; but as to the Bank-Bills, which you say, *Page* the 33d, he was induced by the *Allurements of so great a Treasure*, to stop the Payment of, it is notoriously untrue. The Regent, Sir, as well as Mr. *Law*, the Projector of that Bank, was very desirous of supporting its Credit, which he did as long as 'twas possible; but the true Case was, the immense Sum which was emitted in Bank-Bills, was more than the Cash or Specie in the Bank was sufficient to circulate; especially upon any extraordinary Draught; so that the Bank, being unable to stand the Shock of the least *Panic*, was suddenly broke; but contrary to the Desire of the Regent, who saw that the Public Credit would be ruin'd by that Accident; and did his utmost to avert it; yet you very unfairly charge him with "*suffering the Allurements of so vast a Treasure to prevail in his Mind, against the Sentiments of Justice and Honour.*"

I shall pass over at present your Accounts of the Improvements of some Articles of the *French* Commerce, *Page* 36th, which I shall hereafter observe upon; but I come now to your Particulars of what she has lost in her Commerce with *England*; the Total of which Loss you make to be at present 1,880,000 *l.*; after having deducted 200,000 *l.* for Cambricks, 10,000 *l.* for *French* Paper, 200,000 *l.* for *French* Wine, and 80,000 *l.* for *French* Brandy, which we still pay them annually according to your Account;
in

in all 490,000 *l.* So that, according to your Computation, our Imports from *France* amounted formerly to 1,880,000 and 490,000 *l.* in all 2,370,000 *l. per Annum.*

Now, Sir, though I shall not stand upon Trifles with you, I cannot but observe that, in the Article of Brandy, you charge the Amount formerly imported to be 4000 Tons *per Annum*, at 40 *l. per Ton*, which arises to 160,000 *l.* and you allow the Quantity lately imported to be 2000 Ton *per Annum*, which, at 40 *l. per Ton*, amounts to 80,000 *l.* so the Amount of the Loss to *France* in this Article, according to your State of it, is 80,000 *l. Annually.*

But from whence, Sir, do you collect, that the Prime Cost of Brandy was formerly 40 *l. per Ton*? If you look into the subsequent Scheme of our Trade with *France*, as computed in 1674 by the most eminent and knowing Merchants, who could not be mistaken in the Price, you will find that Brandy is there charg'd at 20 *l. per Ton*; and likewise in the Account of the Commissioners of the Customs of the Imports from *France* into *England*, from *Michaelmas* 1685 to *Michaelmas* 1686, Brandy is likewise charg'd at 20 *l. per Ton*; so that you very unfairly charge it at double that Value; and the Article of Brandy, admitting your own Number of Tons to be imported, and that the Price is since rais'd to 40 *l. per Ton*, will stand thus:

Imported

Imported formerly from *France* 4000 } *l.*
Tons of Brandy *per Annum*, at 20*l.* } 80,000
per Ton Prime Cost,

Imported now from *France* 2000 }
Tons of Brandy *per Annum*, at 40*l.* } 80,000
per Ton Prime Cost,

Loss to *France*, 00,000

This Loss you have charg'd at 80,000 *l. per Annum*, and I mention it only as a Specimen of your *Truth* and *Exactness* in stating Particulars.

As to the Article of Wine; it is charg'd by the Merchants in 1674 at 12*l.* 10*s.* *per Ton Prime Cost*, and by the Commissioners of the Customs in 1686 at 17*l.* 10*s.* *per Ton*, which therefore being the highest Value, you have accordingly charg'd it at, without taking any Medium between them; however it is lucky that you happen'd not to double it, as you did in the Case of the Brandy. But these things, as I said before, are Trifles, and I only take notice of them at the first Glance of your Account.

But, Sir, I shall now more thoroughly examine your Account of what *France* has lost in her Commerce with *England*; and here, Sir, I charge you with the grossest Ignorance, in taking no notice of the Payments of *France* to
D *England*;

England; for, to have stated this Loss justly, you should have deliver'd the following Accounts,

1. Of what we formerly paid to *France*,
What *France* formerly paid to *England*;

And the Difference between them, being in favour of *France*, was the Balance she gain'd formerly.

Again, you should have stated,

2. What we now pay to *France*,
What *France* now pays to *England*;

And the Difference between these being still in favour of *France*, is the Balance she now gains.

And lastly, the Difference between the former Balance in favour of *France*, and the present less Balance in her Favour, is the present Loss to *France* in her Commerce with *England*.

The Reader will, I hope, excuse the formal Particularity of these Articles, which was necessary to expose your want of common Discernment: In short, what was requisite from you, Sir, was to have shewn the Difference between the former Gain of *France* from *England*, and her present Gain; which Difference in her Disfavour is her present Loss. But what have you done? Why, Sir, you have stated only,

What

What we formerly paid to *France*.

What we now pay to *France*.

And the Difference of these you deliver as the Loss of *France*, without ever producing any Account of

What *France* formerly paid to *England*,

And what she now pays to *England*.

From this monstrous Omission it is, that you make out so excessive a Loss to *France*, beyond what was ever suggested yet, by those who have carried it the highest.

If *France* formerly had taken no Goods from *England*, and if she now took none, then indeed your Manner of stating her Loss would have been just; This Loss to her would then have been, the Difference between what *England* paid her formerly, and what *England* now pays her; But when it is known that *France* formerly paid to *England*, and still pays, very considerable Sums, for Goods imported thither from hence, it is very plain that these Sums are to be deducted from the Demands of *France* upon *England*: And it shews how strangely you mistook your Province, when you meddled with Figures, since, after pondering so long upon these Accounts, you never observed this obvious Circumstance.

In short, Sir, this will be clear to every one besides yourself; that *the Difference between the*
D 2
former

former Balance of Trade in Favour of France, and the present less Balance in her Favour, is the Loss of France;

Whereas you, Sir, take no notice of the *Balance*, but only give the *Difference* between our former and present Imports from France, without once mentioning our Exports thither.

This want of all sort of Apprehension is the more remarkable, Sir, in your stating these Accounts; because Mr. Fortry, who gives the Total Value of the *French* Commodities imported into *England*, according to the Computation which was made by the *French* themselves, amounting to 2,600,000 *l. per Annum*, adds likewise at the end of it, the *French* Estimate of the Amount of the Exports from *England* to *France*, which was likewise delivered to the *French* King, in the following Words.

“ *And the Commodities exported out of Eng-*
 “ *land into France, consisting chiefly of woollen*
 “ *Cloths, Serges, knit Stockings, Pewter, Al-*
 “ *lum, Lead, Coals, and all else, do not amount*
 “ *to above Ten Hundred Thousand Pounds a Year*
 “ *clear Loss to this Kingdom.*”

So that the Balance in Favour of *France*, at the utmost it was ever supposed, was no more than 1,600,000 *l. per Annum*; And had all Commerce been from thence entirely destroyed between us, it was impossible for *France* to have lost more in their Commerce with *England*, than this Sum of 1,600,000 *l. per Annum*.

But

But you, Sir, by your confounding of things together, have deliver'd the present Loss of *France* in this Account at 1,880,000 *l. per Annum*, even though *she* retains still, as you admit yourself, a great Part of her former Balance against us; in the Articles of *Wine, Brandy, Cambricks, and Paper*, to the Amount of 490,000 *l. per Annum*; and if so cannot have lost this whole 1,600,000 *l.* but only 1,110,000 *l. per Annum*.

Under this remarkable Absence of common Discernment, what could possibly mislead you into the Province of Accounts? You have been certainly drawn into this Snare by some Persons, whom, I suppose, you have been troubling at every Opportunity, with your forward Pretences to a Skill in Figures; and have arrogantly set yourself forth as one knowing in the Commerce and Finances of *France*; upon this, I presume, they have given you Rope, and in order most effectually to silence you for the future, have put you upon exposing your Budget to the World; wherein though they have fairly ridged themselves of all your Attacks for the future, upon the Footing of a Man of Business, yet it cannot be imagin'd they intended you should have so miserably entangled yourself: However, it is certain from what appears in every Part of your Book, that you must have been intolerable to those that were open to your *Assaults*, and therefore they seem to have imitated the Duke of *Orleans's* Management, according to your
own

own Account of it, *Page* the 30th. “ *As the Case was desperate, so the Remedy applied has been very violent.*”

But to return to your Accounts ; you pretend next, Sir, to state the Loss of *France* in her Commerce with *Holland*, where you give us an Account of what *Holland* receiv'd formerly from *France*, but never a Word of the Commodities which *France* received at the same Time from *Holland* ; though *De Witt*, immediately after *his* Account, takes notice of these in the following Manner ; *Page* 272.

“ *It is well known that in France very many Dutch Cloths, Says, Linen, Herrings, Cod, and other Wares, transported thither by our Ships, were formerly spent there.*”

These, Sir, you have entirely omitted, and only give an Account of the former and present Exports from *France* to *Holland*, without mentioning the Imports from thence into *France* ; so that nothing can be more ridiculous than your Conclusion upon the whole, that *France* has lost three Millions and a half by her Commerce with *England* and *Holland* ; which you expressly repeat again, *Page* the 49th, where you assert without the least Reservation, that “ *She has lost three Millions and an half Sterling in her Trade with England and Holland.*”

Upon this Occasion I could not but observe a most egregious Contradiction in your
fixing

fixing the *Meridian* of the *French* Power and Greatness in 1683: For, Sir, any one but yourself would have reflected, that in the Year 1678, *French* Goods were entirely prohibited in *England*; this Prohibition took place the 21st of *March* 1677-8, and continued from thence 'till the 16th of *June* 1685. You mention your self the Act for this Prohibition, *Page* the 56th; and likewise the Repeal of it in the Beginning of King *James's* Reign, *Page* the 58th: You likewise mention, *Page* the 57th and 58th, the Benefits of this Act to *England*; you say, "*The Effects of it were immediate and happy.*" And again, "*During this flourishing State of our Commerce, Murmurs and Complaints ceas'd, Rents advanc'd, and Industry meeting with its just Reward, new Manufactures were daily set up, &c.*"

Did you never apprehend, Sir, all this while, that these *Benefits* to *England* were *Mischiefs* to *France*? Or, to use your own Expression *Page* the 62d, that, "*Whatever England has got, France has lost.*" And as the Prohibition entirely excluded, even what we now receive from *France*, her Loss therefore amounted to 1,880,000*l.* and 490,000*l.* per *Annum*; in all 2,370,000*l.* per *Annum*, by your own Account; yet, at this very Time, you represent the *French* Kingdom to be making new and excessive Acquisitions in Power and Commerce; your Words are, *Page* the 25th, "*In 1678, France made the Treaty of Nimeguen with a Superiority as mortifying to her Enemies, as it was glorious to herself. To*
the

“ *the Glory of her Arms she added an extensive*
 “ *Trade, and, by that means, to the Enlargement*
 “ *of her Dominions she continued to add a daily*
 “ *Increase of Riches and Power; such, say you,*
 “ *was the happy State of France in 1683: Here*
 “ *then I fix the Meridian of the French Great-*
 “ *ness and Lewis’s Glory.*” You were, doubt-
 less, excessively happy upon having acquitted
 yourself of these pompous Flourishes; and,
 in the Pride of your oratorical Triumph, ne-
 ver reflected upon your fixing the new Ac-
 quisitions to the *French Power and Greatness*, at
 the very Instant when *France* was losing all
 Commerce with *England*: But you see, Sir,
 that your *Prosperity*, like *Lewis’s*, *has in itself the*
Principles of its own Destruction.

I return again to your Accounts, where
 I find, Sir, that you have not justly de-
 livered either *Fortry’s Account*, or the
 Scheme form’d by the Merchants in 1674,
 or the Account from the Commissioners of the
 Customs for the Year ending at *Michaelmas*
 1686, or any of the Accounts of the Inspector-
 General, relating to the Commerce between
England and France; but different Pieces of se-
 veral Accounts, extracted without the least
 Judgment, and which can serve no possible
 Purpose but to shew that you were incapable of
 judging or making a right Use of any; but,
 without detecting the particular Errors in most
 Articles of your Account of the Imports from
France to England, which would be almost an
 endless Labour, I shall here present to the Rea-
 der, first Mr. *Fortry’s* genuine Account of the
 Par-

Particulars imported into *England* from *France* in 1683, which he introduces as follows ;

“ *This Particular not long since was delivered*
 “ *in to the King of France, upon a Design he had*
 “ *to have forbidden the Trade between France*
 “ *and England, supposing the Value of English*
 “ *Commodities sent into France, did surmount*
 “ *the Value of those that were transported*
 “ *hither.*

- | | | |
|----|---|---|
| 1. | “ <i>There are transported out of</i>
“ <i>France into England great</i>
“ <i>Quantities of Velvets plain and</i>
“ <i>wrought, Satins plain and</i>
“ <i>wrought, Cloth of Gold and Sil-</i>
“ <i>ver, Armoyfins, and other Mer-</i>
“ <i>chandises of Silk, which are</i>
“ <i>made at Lyons, and valued to</i>
“ <i>be yearly worth ————</i> | } L.

150,000 |
| 2. | “ <i>In Silks, Stuffs, Taffaties, Pa-</i>
“ <i>duasoyes, Armoyfins, Cloths of</i>
“ <i>Gold and Silver, Tabbies plain</i>
“ <i>and wrought, Silk Ribbands and</i>
“ <i>other such like Stuffs as are made</i>
“ <i>at Tours, valued to be worth</i>
“ <i>by the Year above ————</i> | } 300,000 |
| 3. | “ <i>In Silk Ribbands, Galloons,</i>
“ <i>Lace, and Buttons of Silk,</i>
“ <i>which are made at Paris, Rouen,</i>
“ <i>Chaimount, St. Estiens in Fo-</i>
“ <i>rests, by the Year, about ————</i> | } 150,000 |

4. " *A great Quantity of Serges,* } L.
 " *which are made at Chalons,*
 " *Chartres, Estamines, and Rhe-*
 " *ims, and great Quantities of* } 150,000
 " *Serges made at Amiens, Cre-*
 " *vecouer, Blicourt, and other*
 " *Towns in Picardy, by the Year*
 " *above* ————— }
5. " *In Beaver, Demicastor and Felt-*
 " *Hats, made in the City and Sub-*
 " *urbs of Paris, besides many o-*
 " *thers made at Rouen, Lyons,* } 120,000
 " *and other Places by the Year,*
 " *above* ————— }
6. " *In Feathers, Belts, Girdles,*
 " *Hatbands, Fans, Hoods, Masks,*
 " *Gilt and wrought Looking-*
 " *Glasses, Cabinets, Watches, Pic-*
 " *tures, Cases, Medals, Tables,* } 150,000
 " *Bracelets, and other such like*
 " *Mercery Ware, by the Year, a-*
 " *bove* ————— }
7. " *In Pins, Needles, Box-Combs,*
 " *Tortois-shell-Combs, and such* } 20,000
 " *like, by the Year, about* ————— }
8. " *In perfum'd and trimmed Gloves,*
 " *that are made at Paris, Rouen,*
 " *Vendosme, Clermount, and o-*
 " *ther Places, by the Year, about* } 10,000

9. " *In Papers of all Sorts which* L.
 " *are made at Auvergne, Poic-*
 " *ton, Limosin, Champagne,* } 100,000
 " *and Normandy, by the Year a-*
 " *bove* ——— ——— ———
10. " *In all Sorts of Ironmongers*
 " *Wares, that are made in For-*
 " *rests, Auvergne, and other* } 40,000
 " *Places by the Year, about* ———
11. " *In Linen Cloth that is made*
 " *in Britany, Normandy, as well*
 " *course as fine, there is transport-*
 " *ed into England, by the Year,* } 400,000
 " *above* ——— ——— ———
12. " *In Household-Stuff consisting of*
 " *Beds, Matrasses, Coverlids,*
 " *Hangings, Fringes of Silk, and* } 100,000
 " *other Furniture by the Year above* }
13. " *In Wines from Gascoigne, Nan-*
 " *tois, and other Places on the*
 " *River of Loire, and also from*
 " *Bordeaux, Rochelle, Nantz,* } 600,000
 " *Rouen and other Places, are*
 " *transported into England by the*
 " *Year above* ——— ——— ———
14. " *In Aqua Vitæ, Cyder, Vinegar,*
 " *Verjuice, and such like by the* } 100,000
 " *Year above* ——— ——— ———

15. " *In Saffron, Castle-Sope, Honey, Almonds, Olives, Capers,*
 " *Prunes, and such like, by the* } 150,000
 " *Year about* —————

16. " *Besides five or six hundred Vessels of Salt, loaded at Maron, Rochelle, Bouage, the Isle of Oleron, and Isle of Rhee, transported into England and Holland, of a very great Value, so* } 2,600,000
 " *that as by this Calculation it doth appear, that the very yearly Value of such Commodities as are transported from France to England, amounts to about* —————

" *And the Commodities exported out of England into France consisting chiefly of Woollen Cloths, Serges, Knit-Stockings, Lead, Pewter, Allum, Coals, and all else, do not amount to above Ten Hundred Thousand Pounds a Year clear Loss to this Kingdom.*

This Account which Mr. Fortry delivers, makes the Balance in Favour of France 1,600,000 *l. per Annum*. But it is generally thought to have been carried too high, both in the Accounts of the Imports and Exports ; for no Accounts from the Ports of this Kingdom, after adding to these the fullest Allowance for all smuggling of *French Goods*, have arose to near the Sums he has stated ; nor has it ever appeared, by the most strained Computations, that

THE
COURT OF COMMONS
IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED
HATH PASSED AN ACT
FOR THE BETTER REGULATION
OF THE

REVENUE

IN THE
NINTH YEAR OF THE REIGN
OF HIS MOST EXCELLENT
MAYESTY KING GEORGE THE THIRD

AND WHEREAS
IT IS THE WILL OF
SAYED MAJESTY
THAT THE SAME
SHOULD BE
GIVEN IN PARLIAMENT
AND THE COMMONS
SHOULD HAVE
THEIR SAY THEREON
AND THE COMMONS
SHOULD HAVE
THEIR SAY THEREON
AND THE COMMONS
SHOULD HAVE
THEIR SAY THEREON

LONDON, 29 Nov. 1674.

A SCHEME of the TRADE,

As it is at present Carried on

Between England and France,

In the Commodities of the *Native Product* and *Manufacture* of each Country; Calculated, as exactly as possible, in Obedience to the Command of the Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners for the Treaty of Commerce with *France*: And humbly tender'd to their Lordships.

Quantities.	Commodities Exported from England into France.	Amount of Particulars.	Total Amount of Exports.	Quantities.	Commodities Imported into England from France.	Amount of Particulars.	Total Amount of Imports.
	<i>Woolen and Silk Manufactures.</i>				<i>Linen and Silk Manufactures.</i>		
	<i>l. s. d.</i>	<i>l. s. d.</i>	<i>l. s. d.</i>		<i>l. s. d.</i>	<i>l. s. d.</i>	<i>l. s. d.</i>
574	Pieces of Norwich Stuffs, at ———— 1. 0. 0 per Pe.	574 0 0		60000	Pieces of Lachman and Dowlas, at — 6. 00 0 per Pe.	360000 0 0	
5584	Pieces of Serges and Perpetuans, at — 2. 10 0	11068 0 0		120000	Hundred of Verry & Noyals Canvas, at 6. 00 0 per Hand	720000 0 0	
4518	Pieces of single Bayes, at ———— 2. 10 0	9516 0 0		4000	Hundred of Normandy Canvas, at 7. 00 0 —	28000 0 0	
666	Small Mankin Bayes, at ———— 6. 00 0	3996 0 0		2500	Pieces of Quinins, at ———— 0. 10 0 per Pe.	2500 0 0	
456	Small double Bayes, at ———— 4. 00 0	1824 0 0		1500	Pieces of duck Linen, at ———— 1. 00 0	1500 0 0	
2140	Dosen Mens Worsted Hofs, at — 2. 00 0	4280 0 0		7004	Yards of Diaper Tableing, at ———— 0. 2 0 0	1400 0 0	
1570	Dosen Mens Worsted Hofs, at — 1. 00 0	1570 0 0		15709	Yards of Diaper Napkining, at — 0. 1 0 0	1570 0 0	
1810	Dosen of Childrens Hofs, at — 0. 6 0 0	1086 0 0		1376	Dosen of Buckram, at ———— 2. 00 0	2752 0 0	
400	Yards of Flannel, at ———— 0. 10 0	40 0 0		1200	Boles of Po dows, at ———— 0. 10 0	120 0 0	
1100	C Goods of Cotton, at ———— 0. 9 0 0	990 0 0		2500	Fair of Old sheets, at ———— 0. 3 0 0	750 0 0	
112	Long Cloths, at ———— 12. 00 0 per Cl.	1344 0 0		150000	Pound of Wrought silk, at ———— 2. 0 0 0	300000 0 0	
42	Short Cloth, at ———— 8. 00 0	336 0 0					
829	Spanish Cloths, at ———— 15. 00 0	12415 0 0					
97	Double Northern Dots, at ———— 5. 00 0	485 0 0					
69	Single Northern Dots, at ———— 2. 00 0	138 0 0					
13	Devon Dots, at ———— 2. 00 0	26 0 0					
173	Clara Robs, at ———— 5. 00 0	865 0 0					
9	Peru, at ———— 2. 00 0	18 0 0					
155	Kerns, at ———— 1. 15 0	172 0 0					
960	lb English wrought silk, at — 2. 00 0	1920 0 0					
		63466 0 0					
	This is the full of what was Exported, according to the Custom-House Books in the Port of London, from Michaelmas 1668, to Michaelmas 1669 And for all England we calculate one Third Part more.		84621 06 08				
	Amounts in all to						
	Since 1669, the Exports, as we conceive, are diminished, and not increased.						
1500	Fodder of Lead, at ———— 12. 0 0 per Fd	18000 0 0		160000	Reams of Paper, at ———— 0. 2 0 per Ream	32000 0 0	
6000	Hundred of Tin, at ———— 4. 0 0 per C	24000 0 0		1500	Pes of staves, at ———— 4. 0 0	6000 0 0	
100	Tuns of Allom, at ———— 24. 0 0 per Tun	2400 0 0		400	Hundred of Feathers, at ———— 0. 20 0 per Hand	8000 0 0	
	Calves Skins and Leather	10000 0 0		5000	Hundred of halskins, at ———— 19 0 0	9500 0 0	
	several Sorts of Skins, Grew, Lynthorn Leaver, Butter, Copperas, Old Shoes, Sea Coal, Tobacco Pipes, Corves, Red-Lead, Linfed, Candles, Iron-Ware, Haberdashery Ware, and other trivial Commodities, which may amount per Annum to	20000 0 0		3000	Wing of salt, at ———— 25 0 0 per Heph	7500 0 0	
			84500 00 00	6000	Hundred of Ream, at ———— 0. 8 0 per Hand	4800 0 0	
					Vinegar, Rape, Cider, Wadd, Cork, Quins, Soap, Jar penins, Capers, Olives, Bagnettes, French, Win dow-Glafs, French, Core-Lane, Rust Rods, B a Wood, and Lremon Farstar, which may amount per Annum, at least to	20000 0 0	
	Balance gained by the French from us Yearly, besides the Toys, Glasses, Laces, &c.		171021 06 08				11400 00 0
			106512 17 04				
			1136150 04 00				1136150 04 0

By the Account above, your Lordships may perceive, that the Linen and Silk Manufactures only, Imported from France, amount to upwards of Eight Hundred Thousand Pounds, and the Manufactures of Wool and Silk Exported from England thither, do not amount to Eighty Five thousand Pounds. As also all other Commodities of the French, and Manufactures of France Imported into England, amount to upwards of Three Hundred and Twenty Thousand Pounds more. Whereas the Wines, Brandies, and other Commodities of the French, and Manufactures of France Imported into England, amount to upwards of Three Hundred and Twenty Thousand Pounds more. Besides an incredible Value of Toys, rich Apparel, Point-Lace, &c. So that it is apparent, that the Exports of our Native Commodities and Manufactures to France, are less in Value by at least One Million of Pounds Sterling, than the Native Commodities and Manufactures of France, which we receive from thence. And if it please your Lordships to reflect thereupon, your Lordships will easily discern the great Prejudice the English Nation hath sustained, and yet gain Advantage the French have, and do daily make, by holding this Treaty in Subsidies: this Nation being upon the Matter excluded Trade thither, while in the mean time the French enjoy all and at great Advantages as they can reasonably expect by any Treaty.

Patience Ward, George Garrano, John Dubois,
Thomas Papillon, John Houbert, Benj. Godfrey,
James Houbert, John Houbert, Edm. Harrison,
William Bellamy, John Miron, Benj. Delawar,
Michael Godfrey, Peter Paracivine,

that our Exports to *France* in any one Year amounted to near One Million Sterling.

The next Account I shall present to the Reader, is the Computation of the most eminent Merchants in the Kingdom, in which they were assisted by the Accounts from the Offices, so that it may fully be depended upon as a very just and exact Account; And in the Values of the Goods, or their prime Cost to *England*, they could not be mistaken, as this was continually within their own Knowledge, and the chief Object of their Business.

[*See the Scheme of Trade.*]

It is to be observ'd that this Scheme regards only the *native Products* and *Manufactures* of each Country, and not the Goods of any *Foreign* Country, which were imported from one to the other; Of this Sort we received little or nothing from *France*, but we exported from hence thither considerable Quantities; these were computed to consist of the following Articles, as they are said to have been laid before the Parliament by the Commissioners of the Customs.

[*See the List of Foreign Goods.*]

This Sum, of 175,921 *l.* 15 *s.* 7 *d.* is to be deducted from the Balance by the former Scheme in Favour of *France*; though it is plain that we did not save all this Sum of 171,921 *l.* but paid very considerably for it to some other Foreign Nations; However without entering into this, it is certain, that the Balance to be paid from hence to *France*, according to the foregoing Scheme, amounting to 965,128 *l.* 17 *s.* 4 *d.* is to be lessened by the Amount of this Sum, which will leave the clear Balance upon the whole 789,207 *l.* 1 *s.* 9 *d.* *per Annum* in Favour of *France*; But as there were large Quantities of *French* Goods smuggled into *England* more than were from hence into *France*, it may fairly be computed that the Balance upon this Smuggling in Favour of *France*, was rather more than 200,000 *l.* *per Annum* in 1674. So that the whole Account of our Commerce with *France* will stand thus.

	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Goods regularly im- ported hither from <i>France</i> to the Amount of	1,136,150	4	0
Clandestinely im- ported hither to the Amount of above			
			200,000
<hr/>			
Total Amount of Imports from <i>France.</i>	1,336,150 4 0		
<hr/>			
<i>Exported</i>			

L. 1,336,150 4 0

Exported from hence to France, viz.

Native Products and Manufac- tures of <i>England</i> to the Amount of	}	l.	s.	d.
		171,021	6	8
Foreign Goods to the Amount of	}	175,921	15	7
		<hr/> 346,943 2 3 <hr/>		
Difference, being the Balance in favour of <i>France</i> ,	}	L. 989,207 1 9 <hr/>		

So that from hence it appears that *France* gain'd in her Commerce with *England* about One Million *Sterling per Annum*.

This was the Opinion of the most discerning and judicious Men at that time, grounded upon authentic Accounts, and other Informations which were justly to be depended upon ; and it was likewise confirm'd by the Report of the Lords Commissioners for Trade to his Majesty King *William III.* dated the 23d of *December*, 1697, which thus represents:

“ From *France* the Importations have gradually
 “ increas'd from Anno 1670 to the Beginning of
 “ the late War, in Wines, Brandies, Silks, Linens,
 “ and many sorts of other Goods: For though
 “ there was a Prohibition of French Wine during
 “ some of those Years, yet it was brought in un-
 “ der

“ der other Names, and in the same Years our
 “ Exportations thither have decreas’d. The first
 “ Computation that we find of that Trade stands
 “ in the Books we have in our Custody, in a Re-
 “ port made by Sir George Downing, then one
 “ of the Commissioners of the Customs, to the Lords
 “ of the Privy-Council, then a Committee for
 “ Trade, dated the 9th of March, 1675, where
 “ it is calculated, that, in one Year there were im-
 “ ported from France

l.

“ As many Silks as amounted to	300,000
“ Linens,	507,000
“ Wines, 11000 Tons, } together com-	217,000
“ Brandies, 4000 Tons, } puted at	

“ Which, with Salt, Paper, Prunes, Vinegar,
 “ and other Commodities, upon the first Cost in
 “ France, amounted in all to 1,136,150l. 4s.
 “ Sterling; besides Points, Laces, and what was
 “ brought in privately.

“ And that our Exports to France the same
 “ Year amounted to but 171,021 l. 6s. 8 d.

“ And although we believe that the Linen and Silks
 “ are over-valued in the said Report, yet we sup-
 “ pose that the Goods then brought in privately
 “ (not there estimated) and the Increase of the Im-
 “ portation of Wine and Brandy after that time,
 “ are equivalent to that Valuation.

“ For by other Computations we are inform’d,
 “ that Anno 1685, the Wines imported thence
 “ amounted to above 20,000 Tons, and the Bran-
 “ dies 6000 Tons: And by the Receipt of the Ex-
 “ cise

“ *cise it appears, that in the Year ending at Mid-*
 “ *summer 1689, the Imports of Brandies a-*
 “ *mounted to 8000 Tons, of which, we suppose,*
 “ *very little came then, from any Place but France;*
 “ *and we are inform'd that Year exceeded 20,000*
 “ *Tons.*

“ *And the French King having Anno 1654,*
 “ *1660, 1664, and 1667, increas'd the Duties*
 “ *on our Woollen Goods, and on our Lead, Tin,*
 “ *Coals, Tobacco, Sugar, Fish, and other Com-*
 “ *modities, which are usually imported into his Do-*
 “ *minions; and also laid an Imposition of 50 Sols*
 “ *Tournois per Ton on all English Ships, and*
 “ *restrain'd the Importation of Woollen Manu-*
 “ *factures to his Ports of Calais and Dieppe;*
 “ *and other Goods to some other inconvenient*
 “ *Ports.*

“ *And in Anno 1686, laid great Duties on all*
 “ *East-India Goods, and restrain'd their Impor-*
 “ *tation also to select Ports; at the same time*
 “ *otherwise encouraging the Consumption of the*
 “ *Cloth, Stuffs, Silks, and other Goods made by*
 “ *his own People: All which amounted to a Pro-*
 “ *hibition in many Cases, in receiving Goods from*
 “ *England.*

“ *We are of Opinion that we have been over-*
 “ *balanced in that Trade in most of the said Years*
 “ *about One Millon per Annum.*

It is evident that this Report is grounded up-
 on the Scheme of our Trade with *France*, which
 I have before delivered, the Totals exactly a-
 F greeing;

greeing; And it is declared by this Report concerning that Scheme, that it was entered in the Custom-house Books, and presented by Sir *George Downing*, then one of the Commissioners of the Customs to the Lords of the Privy-Council the 9th of *March* 1675; So that the forgoing Scheme of Trade may justly be relied on, as authentic, for what it pretends to; The Particulars being collected from the Books of the Custom-house, and their prime Cost, or Valuation, calculated by the Merchants; But it is carefully to be remarked that it pretends to no more, than to be, *An Account of the Exports and Imports between England and France of the NATIVE PRODUCTS and MANUFACTURES of each Country.*

Upon which, I must be pardon'd for observing, that these Lords Commissioners for Trade plainly mistook this Account, and understood it to regard our *whole Exports*, though our Exports of *Foreign* and *Plantation* Goods appear, by the very Title of the Account, and by the List of the Particulars, not to be included.

This Mistake has occasioned them to declare in their Report, that the Amount of our Exports to *France* was no more than 171,021 *l. 6 s. 8 d.* for that Year, whereas the Exports of our *native Products* and *Manufactures* alone, amounted to that Sum; and our Exports of *Foreign* Goods to about as much more, if we suppose their Amount to be nearly the same as in 1687,

Nor are the *French* Goods in this Scheme in the least over-rated, as the Lords Commissioners for Trade have here intimated, but on the contrary in the Articles of wrought Silks, are particularly declared by the Merchants to be under-estimated; and it was impossible they should be mistaken in this, which was the chief Object of their Business; But without any Supposition of such an Over-valuation, the Amount of the Goods smuggled from *France* to *England*, was so very considerable, as sufficiently to answer our Exports of Native and Foreign Goods thither; and yet leave to the *French*, as is declared in the foregoing REPORT, a clear Balance upon the whole, of *one Million Sterling per Annum* in their Favour.

I shall next deliver another Account which is entered in the Books of the Custom-house, and which differs from the SCHEME, though inconsiderably upon the whole; But from what particular Cause this Difference has proceeded, if there be no mistake in the Year it is said to be computed for, will be difficult to determine at this distance of time; I shall therefore without further Remarks present it to the Reader;

An Account of the Particulars of the Goods and Merchandise exported from the Port of London, from Michaelmas 1668 to Michaelmas 1669.

	L.	s.	d.
Woollen Manufactures, valued at	93396	5	6
Wrought Silks 473½ lib. at L. 2 10	1183	15	0

94580 0 6

	L.	
Brought over	94580	0 6
Lead 970 Fodder 11 C. at 12 L. } per Fodd. ————— }	11646	15 0
Tin 996 3 14, at 4 l. per C. —	3987	10 0
Allum, 393 C. at L. 1 14 per C. —	471	12 0
Tann'd Leather, 4558 $\frac{3}{4}$, valued, viz. $\frac{1}{3}$ part at 6d. $\frac{1}{3}$ at 9d. and $\frac{1}{3}$ at 12 d. the Pound weight }	19146	15 0
Unrated Goods —————	9990	15 6
In other Manufactures and Products	11500	0 0

Total Amount of Native Products
and Manufactures exported
from London to France, } 151,323 8 0
from 1668 to 1669,

Export of Foreign Goods from London.

	L.	s.	d.
Cotton-wool, 43980 lib. at 6d. } per Pound. ————— }	1099	10	0
Cotton-yarn, 23615 lib. at 12 d. } per Pound. ————— }	1180	15	0
Galls, 1914 2 0 at L. 3. } per Hundred. ————— }	5743	10	0
Goats-hair, 50,977 lib. at 2 s. } per Pound. ————— }	5097	14	0
Tobacco, 160,816 lib. at 3 d. } per Pound. ————— }	2010	4	6
Oil, 204 Tuns, at 30 l. per Tun. —	6120	0	0
Sugar, 6080 2 3 at 25 s. per C. —	7600	13	0
Pepper, 224,859 lib. at 9 d. } per Pound. ————— }	8432	4	3
Calicoes, 7995 $\frac{1}{2}$ Pieces, at 15 s. } per Piece. ————— }	5996	12	6

	L.	s.	d.
Brought over	43281	3	3
Indico, 8481 lib. at 3 s. 6 d. } per Pound. ————	1484	3	6
Goat-skins, 765 doz. at 2 l. per doz.	1530	0	0
Drugs and all other Goods. ————	17200	0	0

Total foreign Goods exported }
from London to France. — } 63495 6 9

The Total Amount of our Exports to France may therefore be thus determined.

Amount of Native Products and
Manufactures exported from }
the Port of London ———— } 151,323 8 0

Amount of Foreign Goods export- }
ed from the Port of London. } 63,495 6 9

Total Amount of the Exports of }
Native and Foreign Goods, } 214,818 14 9
from the Port of London, }

And computing the Value of all }
the Native and Foreign Goods }
exported from the Out-Ports, } 71,606 4 11
at $\frac{1}{3}$ of the value of what was }
exported from the Port of }
London only according to the }
Proportion between them, viz. }

Total Value of the Exports of }
all Sorts from England to }
France, from Michaelmas } 286,424 19 8
1668 to Michaelmas 1669 — }

An Account of the Imports from France into England, from 1668 to 1669, extracted chiefly from an Account laid before the Parliament by the

	L.	s.	d.
<i>Linens of all Sorts</i> ————	506,957	7	6
<i>Wrought Silks at least</i> ————	300,000	0	0
<i>Wine, 11,000 Tons, at 12 l.</i> } 10 s. per Ton ————	137,500	0	0
<i>Brandy, 4000 Tons, at 20 l.</i> } per Ton. ————	80,000	0	0
<i>Paper, 180,752 Reams of dif-</i> } <i>ferent sorts.</i> ————	46,803	0	0
<i>Salt, Resin, Prunes and Feathers.</i>	52,992	12	6
<i>Kid-skins.</i> ————	13,575	12	8
<i>Other Goods and Merchandises</i> ————	55,677	12	8

<i>Total Value of the Imports</i> <i>from France into England,</i> <i>from 1668 to 1669, in-</i> <i>cluding the Wines and</i> <i>Brandy, which are com-</i> <i>puted, according to the</i> <i>Consumption in 1674,</i> ————	1,193,506	4	2
<i>Deduct the Value of the Ex-</i> <i>ports from England to</i> <i>France.</i> ————	286,424	19	8

The Imports exceed } 907,081 4 6
the Exports ————

And if to this Balance of 907,081 l. per Annum the Value of the French Commodities smuggled into England be added, at the Amount of 200,000 l. per Annum, the whole Balance, in Favour of France, will appear to be about 1,100,000 l. per Annum, which agrees as nearly as can be expected with the Balance by the former Accounts.

Lastly, I shall produce,

An Abstract of an Account of the Imports and Exports to and from England and France from Michaelmas 1685 to Michaelmas 1686; which was laid before the Parliament in 1713, by the Commissioners of the Customs;

	L.	s.	d.
Value of the Imports into the Port of London	569,126	0	0
Value of the Imports into the Out-parts (except Deal, Dartmouth, Whitby, and Milford for the Michaelmas Quarter)	715,293	10	3
Total Value of the Imports from France,			
	L. 1,284,419	10	3

Value of the Exports from England to France for the same Year.

	L.	s.	d.	L.	s.	d.
From London	409,563	6	4	515,228	14	3
From the Out-Ports except from the three Ports above- mention'd for the Michaelmas Quar- ter.	105,665	7	11			

Imports exceed the Exports — 769.190 16 0

The Balance according to this Custom-house Account, in Favour of France, is almost 800,000 *l. per Annum*, to which if the Account of the French Goods smuggled into England be added at 200,000 *l. per Annum*, the whole Balance which was gained by France in her Commerce with England, appears to be about one Million Sterling per Annum; and all these Accounts agree very nearly together (except Mr. Fortry's French Account) and sufficiently confirm and establish each other.

It appears then from the concurrent Testimony of the most authentick Accounts, that the Value of the Goods regularly imported to *England*, from 1666 to 1688, (except during the Prohibition) was from 1,100,000 *l.* to 1,300,000 *l. per Annum*; And the Value of what was smuggled, was probably about 200,000 *l. per Annum*, the *French* Ambassador's Lady alone being said to introduce Goods without entry at the Custom-House, in *Charles* the 2^d's Reign, to the Amount of upwards of 30,000 *l. per Annum*. So that the whole Amount of the Imports from *France* to *England*, all Things being included, was from 1,300,000 *l.* to 1,500,000 *l. per Ann.* And at the same Time the whole Amount of the Exports from hence to *France* was from 300,000 *l.* to 500,000 *l. per Annum*; which left upon a Medium a Balance of one Million Sterling *per Annum*, in Favour of *France*; and this may be justly laid down as the annual Gain of *France* formerly by her Commerce with *England*.

How widely, Sir, have you therefore varied from Truth in stating what *France* loses at present, at 1,880,000 *l. per Annum*; even tho^s we still pay her by your own Account 490,000 *l. per Annum* for several Commodities; So that supposing we paid *nothing* to *France* at present, her Loss by your Account in her Commerce with *England* would be 2,370,000 *l. per Annum*. Are you not ashamed, Sir, of delivering these Things for Facts, and of troubling the Gentleman you address yourself to, and the World, with such monstrous

monstrous Assertions; under the Form of Authentic Accounts; yet you have thought fit to assure this Gentleman, at the End of your Discourse, *That Truth and Exactness have been your principal Care*, to which you have solemnly added with great Satisfaction in your own Veracity, *They are the only Merit of a Performance of this Nature.*

If you say, Sir, that the Accounts which I have chiefly relied upon, differ from that which Mr. Fortry has delivered; and of which you give an Encomium at the End of your 22d Page, declaring, *That nothing could be more Authentick*; I say, if you alledge this, then why did you not abide by Mr. Fortry's Account?

But I suppose you had a mind to *mend an Authentic Account*; for it is plain you have entirely departed from it in most of the Particulars; you bring out your Total Amount of the Imports from *France* into *England* formerly to be 2,370,000 *l. per Annum*; And by Mr. Fortry's Account they amounted to 2,600,000 *l.* You will perhaps imagine that in this you are more moderate than Mr. Fortry; but does not every one reflect, that Mr. Fortry deducts from this Sum, the Amount of the Exports from *England* to *France*? so that all that *France* gain'd, according to his Account, was no more than 1,600,000 *l. per Annum*; And he, who was an *Englishman*, could never have imagined, that she could possibly have lost more; But you, Sir, have abundantly excelled him; and

G

have

have allowed *France* at present a considerable Part of her former Advantages, and have yet brought her out a much greater Loser, than Mr. *Fortry* could have done, had she been absolutely deprived of all these Advantages.

As I have already stated the Balance which *France* formerly gained by her Commerce with *England*, I shall now state the Balance she gains at present from *England* ;

An Account of the present annual Value of the Imports from France to England ;

L.

Wines, by a <i>Medium</i> of 7 Years past, 614 Ton <i>per Annum</i> , but including what is smuggled, may be 2000 Ton <i>per Annum</i> , which at 40 <i>l.</i> <i>per Ton</i> , is —————	}	80,000
--	---	--------

Brandy, or Spirits, of all sorts, by a <i>Medium</i> of 4 Years past im- ported into <i>England</i> , 2625 Ton <i>per Annum</i> , of which at least two Thirds, or 1750 Tons, are <i>French</i> Brandy ; and allowing half as much more <i>French</i> Brandy to be smuggled, in all 2625 Tons, at 40 <i>l.</i> <i>per Ton</i> prime Cost, which is at the highest Rate, The A- mount of this Article is —————	}	105,000
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Cambricks, to the Value of —————	180,000
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Indico, Cochineal, and Verdigreese, &c.	25,000
---	--------

Paper,

Paper, little, or none at all ; Silk- Wastecoats, Prunes, and <i>French</i> Plumbs, Olives, Toys, <i>Hungary</i> and Lavender Waters, &c. in all about —————	} 15,000
--	----------

Total Annual Value of the pre- sent Imports from <i>France</i> to <i>England</i> —————	} 405,000
--	-----------

*An Account of the present Annual Value of the
Exports from England to France ; viz.*

	L.
Tobacco from 15,000 to 20,000 Hhds. <i>per Annum</i> , at a Medium about 18,000 ; which at 6 <i>l.</i> <i>per</i> Hhd. including Freight, and the Charges of Commission, amount to	} 108,000
Iron and Brass Manufactures, Wool- len Goods, Whips, Saddles, ex- ported to <i>Dunkirk</i> , to the An- nual Amount of about ————	} 40,000
Lead, to the Amount of about	15,000
Tin, to about —————	4,000
Allum, to about —————	600
Tann'd Leather, to about ————	3,500
Copperas, —————	1000
Coals from <i>England</i> and <i>Scotland</i> ,	5000
Iron Ordnance, Horn-Plates, Wool- Cards, Grindstones, Hops, Hats, Silk Stockings, Tabbies, ————	} 5000
	182,100

	L.
Brought over ————	182,100
Besides which, there has been ex- ported from hence to <i>France</i> Raw Silk, <i>per Annum</i> , at a <i>Medium</i> , amounting to about ————	1000
<i>Spanish</i> Wool, (till our present War) but now none ————	
Total Value of the Exports from <i>England</i> to <i>France</i> , <i>per An-</i> <i>num</i> , ————	183,100

These Accounts have been formed by judicious and knowing Persons, who have had the best Opportunities of being acquainted with the State of our Commerce with *France*; and they are delivered in this Place, though not as precise in every Particular, yet as what may be depended upon, in general, and in their whole Amounts, to be near the Truth.

But it is necessary to observe, that the chief Part of the *French* Goods, which are smuggled upon us, are before included in the Articles of Wines, Brandies, Silk-Wastecoats, &c. As to the Tea, that is run in upon our Coast, great Part of it comes from *Holland*; or is what was imported by our own *East-India* Company: and being exported, is run in upon us again. Though I admit, that there is likewise Tea smuggled upon us from *France*. But this seems to be pretty well answered by the Refin'd Sugar and Tobacco, which we clandestinely run from *Guernsey* and *Jersey* into *France*. And if we add to these the Value of the Corn exported from hence thither, to a considerable Amount,

in

in many Years, they will be, together, abundantly sufficient to balance the Amount of the *French Goods*, which are clandestinely imported into *England*;

If therefore,

The present Imports from <i>France</i> }	405,000
hither, amount annually to	
And the present Exports from <i>Eng-</i> }	183,100
<i>land</i> thither to ————	
The present Balance in Favour of }	
<i>France</i> , in her Commerce with }	221,900
<i>England</i> , is ————	

And the whole Loss to *France*, by the Difference between her former and present Commerce with *England*, will thus be obtain'd ;

L.

Former Balance in Favour of <i>France</i> , }	1,000,000
<i>per Annum</i> , ————	
Present Balance in Favour of <i>France</i> , }	221,900
<i>per Annum</i> , ————	
Loss to <i>France</i> , being the Difference, }	779,100

This Sum of 779,100 *l.* appears, therefore, to be the present Loss to *France*, from the different State of her former and present Commerce with *England*.

Thus, Sir, it appears that this Loss is not half the Amount of 1,880,000 *l.* at which extravagant Sum you have stated it ; and in examining this Subject, I have been far from depreciating the Value

Value of the *French Imports*, or adhering to any of the Suggestions of *Davenant*, who produces many Arguments to shew, that the Account of these Imports has been greatly overcharged ; But his Designs evidently were to support, as far as he was able, the Treaty of Commerce with *France*, which was set on foot at the End of Queen *Anne's* Reign ; And therefore I shall not offer to produce any of his Accounts, as I am not running into contrary Extremes in opposition to you ; and am sensible how much it becomes every Writer to adhere to Truth only, as far as he can obtain it, in a Subject of this Importance.

But, Sir, I am next to examine the Loss which you assign to *France* in her Commerce with *Holland* ; this you state at 1,702,090 *l. per Annum*, which you have deduced in the same extraordinary manner, that you have her Loss in her Commerce with *England* ; that is, you never offer to deliver the former and present Balance in favour of *France*, and, from the Difference of these, to point out her present Loss ; but only give an Account of the Imports from *France* into *Holland* formerly, and of the present Imports from thence into *Holland* ; and the Difference of these you put down as the Loss to *France* in her Commerce with *Holland* ; without once taking notice of the former and present Exports from *Holland* to *France* ; which *De Witt* tells you at the End of his Account, had, in his Time, been very considerable, and are doubtless so at present, in Naval Stores, Fish, Spices, and other numerous Articles.

As

As your Method of stating these Accounts is thus egregiously wrong, so are your Particulars of the Commerce between *France* and *Holland*, likewise very erroneous ; But it will be too tedious to expose the Mistakes of each Article ; However, that you may not charge me with asserting this *gratis*, I shall dissect your first Article. It runs thus, *Page 43.* “ *The Dutch took*
 “ *formerly from France, in Brocades, Velvet, Sa-*
 “ *tins, and Silk-Manufactures of all Sorts, ac-*
 “ *cording to De Witt’s Account, to the Value of*
 “ *1,200,180 l. Sterling per Annum.*”

Now *De Witt* tells you, at the Entrance of his Account, *Page 270*, That it is “ *a List of*
 “ *Manufactures and Commodities exported out of*
 “ *France into Foreign Parts, especially into Hol-*
 “ *land, according to a Scheme presented to the*
 “ *King of France by the Society of Merchants at*
 “ *Paris.*” This, Sir, might have satisfied you that there were Merchants in *France*, the contrary to which you have thought fit to assert. But this only by the bye. Now the total Amount of the Value of *De Witt’s* Particulars, besides the Value of the Salt exported, is about 30 Millions of Crowns, or 6,750,000 *l. Sterling*, reckoning the *French* Crown at 4 *s.* 6 *d.* *Sterling* ; It is from a Quotation of this in the *British Merchant*, Vol. II. *Page 232.* that you have mentioned in your Performance, *Page 22*, that “ *the general Exports from France were com-*
 “ *puted at 6,750,000 l. Sterling per Annum, and*
 “ *upwards.*”

It being evident therefore, that *De Witt’s* Account comprehends the *General Exports of*
France

France to all Foreign Nations whatever ; I shall produce the two first Articles of it, in Page the 270th of his Treatise.

Crowns.

1 ^{mo} , “ <i>Great Quantities of Velvets,</i>	}	6,000,000
“ <i>Plusbes, Satins, Cloth of Gold</i>		
“ <i>and Silver, Taffaties, and other</i>		
“ <i>Silk-Wares made at Lyons and</i>		
“ <i>Tours, which amount to per</i>		
“ <i>Annum, —————</i>		
2 ^{do} , “ <i>Silk Ribbands, Laces, Passe-</i>	}	2,000,000
“ <i>ments, Buttons, Loops, made at</i>		
“ <i>Paris, Roan, and those Parts,</i>		
“ <i>to the annual Amount of ————</i>		

Total annual Value of the <i>French</i>	}	Crowns.
Exports of Silk-Manufactures,		8,000,000

L. Sterl.

Or at 4 s. 6 d. the Crown, ———— 1,800,000

But, Sir, you have made the <i>French</i>	}	L. Sterl.
Exports of Silk-Manufactures to		600,000
<i>England only per Annum, Page</i>		
38, of your Work, to be ————		

Therefore deducting this from her	}	L. Sterl.
general Exports, the Remain-		1,200,000
der is the Amount of her Ex-		
ports of Silk-Manufactures to		
<i>all other Countries, ————</i>		

Whereas you have made the A-	}	L. Sterl.
mount of her Exports of this Ar-		1,200,180
ticle to <i>Holland</i> , only to be ————		

Which

Which is more than was left to be exported to *Holland*, and all the rest of the World besides.

If you say that you understand this Account of *De Witt's* to relate only to the Exports from *France* to *Holland*; and that you do not estimate the Millions there mention'd, as Millions of Crowns, but of Livres: I say, Sir, you have contradicted this before, in giving us the Total of this Account, viz. *six Millions, 750,000 l. Sterling*, as the whole Value of the general Exports of *France*; in which Estimate you have consider'd these Millions as of Crowns; and the Account of *De Witt's*, as of the general Exports; and in this Sense the Account is understood by the *British* Merchant, from whom you have quoted the Total of it; you are therefore, Sir, most plainly found guilty of quoting and agreeing to an Account, which makes the Amount of the Silk Manufactures of *France* exported to the whole World, to be only *1,800,000 l. per Annum*; and afterwards you make her Exports of this Article to *England* and *Holland* only, *1,800,180 l. per Annum*, and besides tell us, Page the 20th, that *she supplied all the Northern Nations of Europe with her Silk Manufactures*.—It would be acceptable, Sir, to myself, and some other of your Admirers, if you would acquaint us to what further Amount, you compute she might supply these with her Silk Manufactures.

The former and present State of the Commerce between *Holland* and *France*, I must confess, I have it not in my Power to state exactly; and therefore, am not able to point out the

present Loss to *France* in this Branch with any Preciseness; I shall therefore, Sir, be more candid than to offer to give, as you have done, the Particulars of its Amount: It is certain, however, that there is a reciprocal Abatement in their Demands upon each other, the *French* at present take less Quantities of Fish, of *East-India* Goods, except Spices, and of the *Northern* Commodities from *Holland*, than formerly; and the *Dutch* receive less Quantities of Linens, of wrought Silks, of Wines, of Brandy, and of other Commodities from *France*, than in the former State of the Commerce between them; But it is certain that the *French* are, upon the whole, much the greatest Losers by this Alteration.

As to the Amount of this Loss, all that I can do towards determining it, is to give the Opinion of two Gentlemen, who are allowed to be very able Judges in this Matter, and who, from a general View which they have taken of the present Alteration of the Commerce between *Holland* and *France*, have estimated the whole Amount of the Loss to *France* by this Alteration, that is the Difference between the former and present Balance in her Favour, to be about 700,000 *l. per Annum*.

If this be admitted, and I am instructed that it cannot be very wide of the Truth, which however is submitted to those who are Judges in these Matters, the whole Amount of the Loss to *France* in her Commerce with *England* and *Holland* will stand thus;

Loss

L.

Loss to *France* in her Com-
merce with *England*, as be- } 779,100 per Ann.
fore determined, ————

Loss to *France* in her Com- } 700,000 per Ann.
merce with *Holland*, ————

Total Loss to *France* in her
Commerce with *England* } 1,479,100 per Ann.
and *Holland*, ————

Instead of 3,582,092 *l.* to which you have raised
it, by omitting to deduct the Value of the
Exports to *France* from *England* and *Holland*.

What is very extraordinary, is, that after
you have troubled your Readers with your Ac-
counts, and your Differences, which you have
delivered with all imaginable Gravity, and thus
brought out a Total of above *three Million and
an half Sterling* as the Loss to *France* in her
Commerce with *England* and *Holland*, you thus
wisely observe ;

“ *How much the general Balance of Trade is*
“ *more or less in Favour of France, I cannot possibly*
“ *determine with any Exactness, because I have not*
“ *been able to procure any Account of the Value of*
“ *her present Exports and Imports ; be that as it*
“ *will, the Variation in her Trade with England*
“ *and Holland is so much to her Disadvantage,*
“ *that I think 'tis almost impossible for her to repair*
“ *that Loss by any new Acquisitions of Trade with*
“ *other Countries ; that she has not yet repaired*

“ it, the following Account will prove to a Demonstration ;

This is such a Collection of Nescience and Science, as is rarely to be met with in one Author ; you first say you cannot possibly determine how much more or less than this Sum of *three Million and an half*, the general Balance of Trade, is in Favour of *France* ; that is, you cannot tell whether or no this Loss is repair’d by other new Acquisitions ; However, say you, be that as it will, though I cannot possibly tell this with any Exactness, yet I think it almost impossible for her to repair this Loss, by any new Acquisitions of Trade with other Countries ; nay more, say you, I shall now “ *prove to a Demonstration that she has not repair’d it.* ” — What, Sir ? though you cannot possibly tell whether she has repair’d it or not.

This, Sir, is undoubtedly true *Tipperary*, and as it is far beneath any Remarks, I shall only observe, as you do *Page* the 24th, upon Monsieur *Colbert’s* Accomplishments ; “ *These Things naturally give one a high Opinion of the Talent of so able a Financier.* ”

But it is now become necessary for me to enquire into the present Acquisitions to the Commerce of *France*, concerning which you are pleased to declare *Page* 37, “ That the French are more addicted to Commerce, the Number of Merchants amongst them is increas’d, and they are become more industrious in searching out new Channels

“ Channels of Trade than they were in former
“ Times.”

And yet *Page* the 48th, you say, that there
“ is a great Diminution in her Revenues, and
“ that so great a Deficiency can have but one Cause,
“ and that is a great Decrease of Consumption and
“ Circulation, proceeding from Loss of People, of
“ Manufactures, and TRADE,” though you admit they have more Merchants, and are more addicted to Commerce than ever.

Again, *Page* the 19th, you tell us, that from the Year 1714, she has been in a recovering Condition. And *Page* the 52d you say France is now in her Decline.

With the same Kind of Consistency you tell us *Page* the 12th, “ That the Power of France
“ in the present Situation of her Finances and Credit, is far from being formidable ; and whatso-
“ ever they [she] may boast, is incredibly less than
“ it was threescore Years ago, as I shall make
“ more fully appear, say you, when I come to examine into the past and present State of her
“ Commerce”. And yet, Sir, after you have examined this State, and gone through it, you declare *Page* the 45th, That you “ cannot possibly determine with any Exactness, whether France
“ has gain’d or lost in the general Balance of
“ Trade.” In short, there is no End of your Contradictions ; and you seem, Sir, like Cadmus, to have sown Armies, which immediately rise up and fight together.

As you therefore have furnished nothing towards explaining the Amount of the present Acquisitions to the *French Commerce*, I shall lay before the Reader the Observations of a judicious and knowing Merchant upon this Subject.

The Annual Amount of the present Acquisitions to the French Commerce.

	L.
1. In her <i>East-India</i> Trade	300,000
2. In her <i>Turkey</i> Trade, wherein } though the Merchants concerned } may gain little, yet <i>France</i> vend- } ing more Goods than formerly, } her Manufacturers are paid for } them, to the Amount of _____ }	250,000
3. In her Exports of Sugar, Me- } lasses, Rum. _____ }	300,000
4. In Indigo and Cotton Wool	50,000
5. In her Trade with <i>Spain</i> , by } vending more Woollen Manu- } factures than formerly in <i>Old</i> } <i>Spain</i> , and by her greater Share } in the Flota and Galleons _____ }	450,000
6. In her <i>Portugal</i> Trade, _____	50,000
7. In her <i>Guinea</i> Trade and Gums	60,000
8. In her <i>Italian</i> Trade _____	50,000
9. In her new Gain, by employing } her own Shipping, and saving the } Charges of Freight _____ }	250,000
Total Amount of the new Acqui- } sitions to the <i>French Commerce</i> , } <i>per Annum</i> . _____ }	1,760,000

There-

Therefore the present Result of the Alterations in the Commerce of *France* may be thus determined.

The Amount of the new Ac-	L.
quisitions to the <i>French</i> Com-	1,760,000
merce, <i>per Annum</i> , ————	}
The Amount of the Loss to <i>France</i>	
in her Commerce with <i>England</i>	
and <i>Holland</i> , as before determin'd	1,479,100
<i>per Annum</i> , ———— ———— ————	}
The present Gain of <i>France</i> in her	
general Commerce <i>per Annum</i>	280,900

Having thus settled the present State of the Commerce of *France*, I hasten through the rest of your Work ; but I find myself immediately stopp'd by this most egregious Passage, Page the 52d.

“ And now, Sir, if after all we should see the
 “ Balance of Power in Europe that Perpetuum
 “ Mobile in Politicks, to fix and establish which,
 “ our Statesmen plann'd, and our Armies fought
 “ with such glorious Success, against all the Ef-
 “ forts of *France* in her Vigour, animated too
 “ by an enterprizing Monarch ; I say, if we are
 “ to see this Balance totally overturned at last by
 “ *France* in her Decline, with a Minister in his
 “ Dotage, and an unaspiring King, how caprici-
 “ ous is Fortune, and how unaccountable must our
 “ Fate be ? ”

Certainly there never came from the Press a more ostentatious, unmeaning Paragraph ; good God ! in what Work have you employed the excellent Lords Godolphin, Hallifax and Sunderland, the great and victorious Dukes of Marl-

borough and *Argyle* ; the Lords *Cadogan*, *Stanbope* and *Stair*, and all the other able Statesmen and gallant Soldiers of the *British Nation* ; “ *They*
 “ *plann’d and they fought*, say you, *with glorious*
 “ *Success in order to fix a PERPETUUM MOBILE.*
 How capricious indeed is Fortune, and how unaccountable the Fate of these Heroes! that after all their renowned Victories they should thus be *recorded*; and have this Absurdity sung as their Eulogium by an *Irish DRUID*.

After this, you proceed to shew us how profound a Philosopher you are ; “ *There has been,*
 “ say you, *for some Years past, and I have Reason*
 “ *to believe there is at this time a strange vis iner-*
 “ *tiae in that State, with a most unnatural Gravitati-*
 “ *on towards France, which it is impossible to account*
 “ *for, unless the Cartesian System so long exploded in*
 “ *Philosophy, should be allow’d to hold good in Po-*
 “ *liticks ; and then the Activity of the French Tour-*
 “ *billon makes the matter plain.*

You have heard, Sir, I perceive somewhere of the *Vis Inertiæ* of Matter, and likewise of its *Gravitation* ; and therefore you have introduced them here both together to shew your Learning, and have considered the same Object that is the *Dutch State*, as under a *Vis Inertiæ*, and *gravitating towards France* at the same time : But, Sir, you are to be informed, that, whenever the *Vis Inertiæ* of a Body is mentioned by Philosophers, they understand it of a Body at Rest, and this *Vis* to be the Opposition which it makes to being mov’d out of its Place ; At the same time the Idea of *Gravitation* in a
 Body,

Body, is the Idea of its Tendency to some other Body ; or, in short, the Idea of the *Vis Inertiæ* of a Body, is, of its endeavouring to keep its Place ; and the Idea of the *Gravitation* of a Body, is, of its actually *changing* its Place, or *endeavouring* to *change* it ; and you might as well have talked of a *Dutchman*, lying in his great Chair with the Gout, and running a Race at the same time ; as of the *Dutch* State having at present a strange *Vis Inertiæ*, and at the same time an unnatural *Gravitation* to *France*.

But, Sir, I have not done with this Jargon yet ; for allowing you, that there is a *Gravitation*, or, if you will a *Vis Inertiæ*, in the *Dutch* State towards *France* ; which pitiful Allusion to the Heaviness of the *Hollanders*, I suppose you intended for Wit ; yet now you have got these, you only expose your self worse than before, by jumbling them together ; and ridiculously tell us that the *Newtonian* Principle of *Gravitation* is impossible to be accounted for, but by *Cartesian Vortices*.

You proceed next to inform us of the happy State of this Nation from 1678 to the Beginning of King *James's* Reign ; and here, Sir, you seem to be describing a GOLDEN PERIOD ; You say, “ *During this flourishing State of our*
 “ *Commerce, Murmurs and Complaints ceas'd,*
 “ *Rents advanced, and Industry meeting with its*
 “ *Reward, new Manufactures were daily set up,*
 “ *and Business in general carried on with Viva-*
 “ *city. The Poor found Employment, the Gentle-*

“ *man, the Farmer, the Merchant, and Manu-
facturer, all shared the common Benefit.*

In which, Sir, you discover such political Principles, as are very extraordinary to be publicly acknowledged at this time; for it was during *that* Period, that the Liberties of *England* were almost intirely Extinguish’d, and the Crown Absolute; It was then that the worthy Lord *Russel*, Mr. *Sidney*, and Sir *Thomas Armstrong*, with other brave *Englishmen*, were cruelly butcher’d; And the Murder of *Godfrey*, the Popish Plot, the Danger of a Popish Successor, and other the most melancholy Circumstances, agitated and shock’d all honest Minds; yet you think fit to assert that, *at this time, Murmurs and Complaints ceas’d*: And as to your Declaration, *that Business in general was then carried on with Vivacity*, though I am not denying that we were benefited by the Prohibition of Commerce with *France*, yet I am sure that this Description of yours, is most applicable to the *Business* which was *then carried on* by *Jeffreys*, which it is certain, was managed with most insolent *Vivacity*.

After this you deliver an Account of some Acts beneficial to our Commerce, which, were passed in King *William’s* Reign; and amongst others, you mention *Page 59*, the Act of the 8th *William* the Third, *Cap. 36*; which, you say, was *for encouraging the Silk Manufacture within the Realm, and for the better preventing the Importation of the same*; which Title is evidently
of

of your own forming; and is another strong Mark of the NATION: For how, Sir, is the *Importation* of a Manufacture to be prevented, which is *within* the Realm, and has never been *abroad*? The Title of the Act, Sir, is, *For the further Encouragement of the Manufacture of Alamodes and Lutestrings within this Realm, and for the better preventing the Importation of the same*: Had it been of THE Alamodes and Lutestrings within this Realm, it would have been erroneous, as well as your own Title: But this, Sir, is *your* Emendation; and, instead of being the Language of *Westminster-Hall*, is evidently of the Growth of a neighbouring ISLAND.

I have before mention'd your *Propriety* and *Judgment* in Compliments; and, *Page 56*, you further discover your *Skill* in this Business: As an Instance of this, without the least *Provocation* you acquaint the Gentleman you address yourself to, of the good Effects from the *tacking* of Bills. ——— I dare say you had no *Malice* or *Guile* in this, and I am not going to charge you with any; on the contrary, I am convinced your only Design, was, to mention all that you knew about the Prohibition; and, as he is a Gentleman of Discretion, I suppose, you imagined, he would take care not to meddle with what was improper.

You are extremely remarkable throughout your Work for your ridiculous Affectation of *French Scraps*, which you perpetually usher in,

without the least Provocation; and the Etymologies you give of our *Sballoons*, and of our *Tamins* or *Stamins*, strongly discover that *Pedantic Turn* in you, which is offensive to every Gentleman.

Of the same sort is your Introduction of the Language of *Westminster-Hall*, *Page* the 17th, and of *Lewis's Fee-Simple*; you say, That, *to speak in the Language of Westminster-Hall, Lewis spent the Fee-Simple of his Kingdom, and in this Particular outdid even Cæsar, for Lewis wanted above Thirty Millions to be worje than nothing.* It seems you derive this from *Lewis's* running 176 Millions *Sterling* in Debt; for, Sir, you tell us, *Page* the 24th, that the Income of his Revenue, clear of all Deductions, had been 7,200,000 *l. Sterling, per Annum*; which, at twenty Years Purchase, Interest of Money being at 5 *per Cent*, amounted to 144 Millions *Sterling*, and so wants 32 Millions of amounting to *Lewis's* Debt. But, Sir, who told you, that the Fee-Simple of the neat Revenue of the Crown, was the Fee-Simple of the Kingdom; when it does not include the Fee-Simple of the Salaries of the Officers, much less of the rest of the Kingdom? You are thus perpetually exposing yourself in attempting to display your Learning; and whilst you imagine you *force* our Applause, are only rendering yourself beyond measure ridiculous.

Your Treatment of Cardinal *Fleury* must likewise once more be examined; I have before
men-

mentioned your setting him forth as having great Personal Credit, and at the same time as having very little : And I must next observe the other most inconsistent Accounts you give of him ; you allow, *Page* the 18th, that he is *the wisest and best Minister now living* ; and, *Page* the 52d, you say he is *in his Dotage*.

The Accounts which you give from the Inspector-General of our Exports and Imports in 1663 and 1669, are stated by you, as usual, without the least Judgment, or Regard to Truth and Exactness : Can any one acquainted with the State of our Commerce believe what you lay down, in Substance, that from the *Restoration* to the *Revolution*, that is, to the settled Prohibition of Trade with *France*, we lost about Two Millions *Sterling per Annum* in the general Balance of our Trade ? Did you consider, Sir, that this was no less a Term than *Twenty Eight Years* ? out of which, if we deduct about *Seven Years* for the Time the Prohibition continued at the End of King *Charles's* Reign, there will be left *Twenty One Years*, which, at *Two Million, per Annum*, is *Forty Two Millions Sterling* in the whole ; a Sum, Sir, which every Man in his Senses must agree, that we could not possibly lose during that Period.

On the contrary, the Inspector-General, from whom you quote these Accounts, expressly declares, in his first Report, that they deserv'd no Credit : He says, *Page* the 25th, "*Whatever Over-balance France in particular might have*
" upon

“ upon us, between the Imports from thence and
 “ our Exports thither, and admit this Over-balance
 “ to have continued a long time, 'tis evident, be-
 “ yond all Dispute, that England was every Year
 “ a Gainer in its universal Trade; whereof no-
 “ thing can be a stronger Proof than the Mint-
 “ Accounts, Bullion being the true Superlucration
 “ in foreign Traffick, and Plenty of Bullion oc-
 “ casioning a great Coinage: And from the Time it
 “ has been suggested that we carried on such a last-
 “ ing and destructive Trade with France, viz.
 “ from 1659 to the 21st of December 1688, the
 “ Mint had full Employment, since it appears from
 “ the Mint-Rolls, that there was coined at that
 “ Period of Time,

In Gold,	6,274,858	1	0
In Silver,	4,203,628	6	2

In all, £ 10,478,486 7 2

And again, Page the 46th of his first Report, he there delivers these very Accounts which you quote in the following manner,

“ Anno 1662	}	Imports,	4,016,019	18	0
to 1663		Exports,	2,022,812	04	0

“ The Exports exceed the Imports, 1,993,207 14 0

“ Anno 1668	}	Imports,	4,196,139	17	0
to 1669		Exports,	2,063,274	19	0

“ The Imports exceed the Exports, 2,132,864 18 0

To which he adds, (which is omitted by yourself) “ Here you may please to observe, what
 “ an

“ *an Appearance there is of an Excess against us,*
 “ *all the World over, these two Years ; in which*
 “ *no Man in his right Senses will deny, but that*
 “ *we carried on a thriving Traffick.*

Are you not ashamed, Sir, of quoting Accounts in this unfair Manner, and of producing the Inspector-General as vouching for the Truth of Articles, which he absolutely tells you are quite erroneous?

It appears also from the Description, which he gives himself of the Manner in which he obtained these Accounts, how necessarily they must shew a great Over-balance against us ; For he says Page the 10th, of the same Report ; “ *All*
 “ *the Light I have been able to gain into the Trans-*
 “ *actions of past Times relating to the Exports*
 “ *and Imports, is from a Manuscript remaining*
 “ *in the Custom-house ; which contains an Abstract*
 “ *drawn out almost in the same Form as the Ledg-*
 “ *ers of my Office, are now kept, with the then*
 “ *Valuations of all the Commodities. But it only*
 “ *gives an Account of the several Goods and Mer-*
 “ *chandises of the Growth of England, export-*
 “ *ed out of the City of London ; and an Account*
 “ *of the several Goods and Merchandises that*
 “ *were imported into the said City from Michael-*
 “ *mas 1662 to Michaelmas 1663 ; and from*
 “ *Michaelmas 1668 to Michaelmas 1669 ; but*
 “ *it takes no notice of what we properly call the*
 “ *Re-Exports, viz. Foreign Goods and Plantation*
 “ *Goods, carried to other Countries by Certificate*
 “ *in Time, or out of Time ; whereof Consideration*
 “ *should be had in stating the Balance between the*
 “ *two Kingdoms.”*

So

So that it plainly appears, that the Accounts you have quoted from the Inspector-General, are only the Accounts of the Imports into the Port of *London*, for the Years 1663 and 1669, and of the Exports of our *Native Products* or *Manufactures* from the same Port; but not of the Exports of our *Plantation-Goods*, of our *East-India Goods*, or of any *foreign Goods* whatever; yet these *partial* Accounts for the Port of *London* only, you confidently deliver as authentic Accounts of the *general* Exports and Imports of the whole Kingdom.

As I have here fully demonstrated your egregious Errors, I shall take upon myself the Trouble of rectifying them, in some measure; and shew plainly to every one, besides yourself, a near Estimate of the Value of our Exports and Imports for the Year ending at *Michaelmas*, 1663;

	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Imports into the Port of <i>London</i> , by the <i>Custom-House</i> Books, ————	4,016,019	18	0
Imports into the Out-Ports, computed at $\frac{1}{3}$ more———			
	1,338,673	6	0
Total Imports ————	5,354,793 4 0		

Exports of <i>Native Products</i> , and <i>Manufactures</i> , from the Port of <i>London</i> by the <i>Custom-House Books</i> ————	2,022,812	4	0

Brought over, ———	2,022,812 4 0
Exports of native Products, and Manufactures, from the Out-Ports, at $\frac{1}{3}$ more———	} 674,270 14 8

Exports of our <i>Native</i> Pro- ducts, and Manufactures, }	2,697,082 18 8
---	----------------

Exports of <i>Foreign</i> and Plantation-Products, and Manufactures, computed at the same Amount.———	} 2,697,082 18 8
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Total Exports of all Sorts	5,394,175 15 4
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It appears that our Exports of Native Commodities to *France* amounted to 171,021 *l.* 6 *s.* 8 *d.* by the foregoing *SCHEME*; and that our Exports of Foreign Products and Manufactures, amounted for one Year to 175,921 *l.* 15 *s.* 7 *d.* according to the foregoing *LIST*; so that, with Regard to *France*, the Amount of our *Foreign* Goods exported thither rather exceeded the Amount of our *Native* Goods; and it was the same in general, or more so, to other Countries; so that the Amount of the Exports of Foreign and Native Goods may be laid down to be equal. And the State of our Commerce for the Year 1663, may be thus estimated.

l. *s.* *d.*

Total Amount of Exports, }	
<i>Anno</i> 1663 ———	5,394,175 15 4

Total Amount of Imports, }	
<i>Anno</i> 1663 ———	5,354,793 4 0

The Exports exceed the Imports by ———	} 39,382 11 4
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It is probable that our Imports and Exports for this Year were somewhat near this Account, which approaches nearer to the Accounts of our Exports in 1699 and 1703; and that our Imports at this Time exceeded our Imports in 1699 and 1703, is extremely probable, from the great Quantities of *French* Goods imported upon us in 1663, and excluded in those Periods: But the general Balance of Trade was still at first in our Favour, though not near so considerably, as afterwards: But I am not so much attempting in this Place to fix precisely the Amount of our Exports and Imports in 1663, as to point out, Sir, how very unknowing you was in the Particulars you have quoted. Is it not ridiculous to any Gentleman at all versed in the State of our Commerce, to hear you gravely aver, as you do, Page 62, “ *That our general Trade* “ *was 3,695,528 l. 0 s. 9 d. $\frac{3}{4}$. per Annum* “ *more to our Advantage in the second Period* “ *than in the first.*” That is, that from 1699 to 1703, we gained almost four Millions *Sterling per Annum* more than from 1662 to 1669. To deduce which monstrous Assertion is the sole Design, as you tell us, of your *profound* POSTSCRIPT.

I shall proceed now to sum up your extraordinary Atchievements and Accomplishments, having already sufficiently expatiated on the Particulars of them; but I think it first necessary to make it seriously appear, that in this Work, if I have treated you with some Severity, I have, however, not departed from Candor; and have only exposed those real Absurdities, which have resulted from the full Strength, and most
vigo-

vigorous Efforts of your Genius. As an indisputable Instance of this, I must tell you, that I observed, Page 19, the Description of your *second* Period of the State of *France*; which is there expressed to be from 1668 to 1714; during which, say you, *France* was *exhausting her Strength, and ruining her Commerce*. And Page the 25th, you describe her in 1678, and so on to 1683, in the most flourishing Condition, *extending her Trade, enlarging her Dominions, and daily increasing in Riches and Power*, which evidently contradict, your *second* Period; I say, Sir, though the Year 1668 is *twice* repeated in your 19th Page, and though you have given me such Specimens of the little Apprehension you have of Contradictions, yet, as you there mention the Continuance of your *first* Period *beyond the Treaty of Nimeguen, and so on to the Commencement of the War*; I am willing to allow the Year 1668 to be an Error of the Press, instead of 1688: In this you must acknowledge I have treated you fairly; and I have been far from being fond of charging you with *Guilt*, where I have had the least Cause to suppose you had no *Malice* at Heart.

Having thus acquitted myself from all just Imputation of Want of Candor, you must now suffer me to do Justice to your *real* and *indisputable* Merits, however *offensive* it may be to your *Modesty*; I congratulate you, Sir, upon the Propriety and Happiness of your Compliments; upon your extraordinary Discernment, and the Distinction you have found between Jewels and Effects; upon the Consistency of

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your

your Accounts ; the Loss of all public Credit in *France* ; and at the same time, your Instance of this Credit being accepted both by Subjects and Foreigners ; upon the recovering and declining Condition of *France*, at the same Juncture ; upon your Description of Cardinal *Fleury*, whom you shew to be the wisest, and best Minister in *Europe* ; and at the same time in his Dorage ; upon your Scraps of *French*, and your Skill in Etymologies ; upon your Knowledge of the Law, and your *Legal* Execution of the *French* Manufactures.

I give you Joy, of your demonstrating the State of a Balance, which you declare at the same time you cannot possibly determine ; Of your Meridian of *Lewis's* Greatness, and of your Golden Period in *England* ; Of your *Vis Inertiae* and Gravitation ; and of your accounting for the *Newtonian* Principles by the *Cartesian* Vortices ; Of your Act for preventing the Importation of the Silk-Manufactures within this Realm ; Of your limiting Numbers infinitely great, and fixing a *Perpetuum Mobile* with glorious Success :

These, Sir, are Accomplishments peculiar to yourself, which you will ever be renowned for ; And as you will enjoy the Reputation of them, secure from all Envy, you are in this, Sir, more fortunate yourself than *Lewis* or *Cæsar*.

But it now becomes me to be serious ;—As to the Gentleman you address yourself to, He is open, as all other Gentlemen of superior Merit and Rank, to Assaults and Dedications from

Low Writers ; it is a Tax He must patiently submit to ; and it is owing to the Lustre of his excellent Accomplishments, that He is visible to such Authors. Those Proofs He has already given of the most quick Discernment, and clearest Judgment, accompanied with a graceful Eloquence, place him in the first Rank of the young Gentlemen of this Age ; and are an Earnest to his Country of what is justly to be expected from his full Maturity. And amongst his excellent Qualities, is not to be forgotten the Sincerity of his Friendship ; Which He lately manifested on the most important Occasion ; The worthy Sentiments, and manly Reasoning, which He then discovered, will ever be recorded to his own Honour, and to the Honour of his GREAT FRIEND, whom He so justly, and powerfully vindicated.

I am now drawing near to the Close of this Work ; in which, if I have exploded the false Reasonings, and Accounts of the INQUIRER with some Indignation, it has been owing to the just Sense which I have of the Importance of the Subject ; a Subject, which I was amaz'd to see enter'd upon by that Author, with such peculiar Weakness and Confidence. If Calculations and Accounts of our own Revenue and Commerce, or of those of neighbouring Nations, begin to be obtruded upon the World, with the same Levity and Unconcern as Farces and Romances, it is high time that some *Examples* should be made of these *hardy* Writers ; That the just Attention which is paid by Gentlemen of Discernment and Knowledge to Subjects of this sort, may not perpetually be abused ; Nor other Gentlemen, less knowing, be

quence; it being evident, that these Writers, without some *timely* Correction of their *Errantry*, will imagine they have found a *new* Province to *sport* in, unknown to their Predecessors.—I have therefore seized this *Offender*, who seemed to me eminently *fearless* and *hardy*; and I have inflicted such Punishment on his *Recreant* Carcase, as will be useful, I hope, in *detering* his Brethren from the same sort of *Adventures*.

As to the Estimate, which I have myself given of the present State of the Commerce of *France*, if any Gentleman should imagine it too high, I would beg of him to consider that the *present* Acquisitions to the Commerce of *France* are in a different Channel from her *former* Advantages, which consisted chiefly in the Prosperity of her Linen and Silk Manufactures; whereas, her *present* Improvements are in her Woollen Manufactures, her *East-India* Traffic, and her Plantations, and in the more flourishing State of her Shipping and Sea-Ports, where they are not so easily seen; and fall little under the Observation of those who make the Tour of *France*, tho' at the same time they easily remark the Declension of *Lyons* and *Tours*, where the Silk Manufactures formerly prospered.

Gentlemen who consider this Variation in the Commerce of *France*; who have observ'd the flourishing State of her Sea-Ports, and the present Increase of her Shipping; As I have with some Attention in a three Years continuance in that Kingdom, will readily agree to my Assertion; That the Balance of Commerce, in favour of *France*, is not less than it was before the REVOLUTION, but rather increas'd; though the Effects of it, I admit, are less generally spread upon the *Inland*

But this Alteration in the *Position* of her Wealth, is so far from diminishing her Strength, that it is directed to those Parts wherein it can be most hurtful to her Neighbours, particularly *Great Britain*; And at the same time the *French* Court is less liable to Complaints from the People; Who were formerly subject to extreme Distress, when they were collected in great Numbers in the Inland Trading Cities, and depended entirely upon the Export of their Manufactures abroad; THEN upon any Prohibition in foreign Countries, they were reduc'd to the utmost Misery. But the People of *France* are AT PRESENT less liable to be distressed in this manner; and in case of a War with any of her Neighbours, the Resources of the *French* Crown are as great as ever, and the Complaints of the People will be *less* than formerly.

And though it is certain, that the Power and Strength of *Britain* are now greater than ever, particularly our Naval Force, which is increas'd to an amazing height by the Wisdom and Care of the late Ministry; yet, how far it may be expedient for us to engage in a War upon the *Continent*, will require to be very deliberately weigh'd; and ought to be supported by much better Arguments, than the *Huzzas* of the People of *Ostend*, upon the Landing of the *British* Regiments.

At the same time I am sensible it is highly requisite, that we should assist her *Hungarian* Majesty with Supplies of Money, with which she will be able very powerfully to vindicate her own Cause: and whilst we continue this
Method

Method of Assistance, she will be obliged to exert to the utmost the Strength of her *own* Countries.

Under this Method we can easily proportion our Assistance to the Necessity of the Service; and can at any time diminish, or withdraw it, as we shall see requisite: But we shall find Ourselves more strictly ty'd down to a *War* upon the *Continent*, if once we engage in it; and it may justly be feared we shall meet with great Difficulties, in quitting it again with Honour to the Nation.

In short, it is certain that the Power of the *French* King over his People, is *now* as absolute as ever; that he has *now* plenty of Men for his Armies and Garrisons, is not to be deny'd; and that his People enjoy a very flourishing Commerce at *present*, has been made apparent; nor are they so liable, as *formerly*, to fall into immediate Distress by the Calamities of a War. There can then be no doubt of the powerful Efforts which *France* is *now* capable of making; how far it may be prudent to put her upon making them, deserves to be coolly consider'd; When it is evident, that all that we can expect by it, is only, by submitting to *some* Difficulties *Ourselves*, to lay the common People of *France* under *greater*; which *THEY* will patiently submit to, while *WE* shall be very uneasy.

